

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0011] as follows:

[0011] Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of a support including another embodiment of an energy absorbing mechanism;~~and~~

Please amend paragraph [0012] as follows:

[0012] Figure 5 is a side view of a portion of the energy absorbing mechanism[.]; and

Please add the following new paragraph after existing paragraph [0012]:

Figure 6 is a partially exploded view of another assembly of the present invention.

Please amend paragraph [0018] as follows:

[0018] In one embodiment, the energy absorbing mechanism **18** includes a roller **22** rotatable about an axis **A**. Preferably, the axis **A** is transverse to the longitudinal axis **L** of the steering column **14**. The elongated element **20** has a first end **24** wound about the roller **22** for unwinding and rotating the roller **22** about the axis **A** in response to the movement of the steering column **14** relative to the support **12**. In a preferred embodiment, as shown in Figure 3, the roller **22** is rotatably supported by the steering column **14**. The elongated element **20** has a second end **26** fixed to the support **12**. More specifically, the elongated element **20** includes a loop at the second end **26**. The support **12** includes a fastener **28** for extending through the loop and fixing the second end **26** of the elongated element **20** to the support **12**. However, it is to be appreciated that the second end **26** of the elongated element **20** may be fixed to any other part of the vehicle adjacent to and fixed with respect to the steering column **14**. In addition, the second end **26** of the elongated element **20** may be fixed through a

variety of mechanisms as are known in the art. In an alternative embodiment, as shown in Figure 4, the roller **22** is rotatably supported by the support **12**. Figure 6 further illustrates the roller **22** rotatably supported by the support **12**, and it is to be appreciated that the strap and roller may be arranged with the elongated element **20** extending in an opposite direction to that shown, with the roller **22** disposed proximal to the steering column **14**. Likewise, the roller **22** may be rotatably supported by any other part of the vehicle adjacent to and fixed with respect to the steering column **14**. The second end **26** of the elongated element **20** is fixed to the steering column **14**. The second end **26** of the elongated element **20** may be fixed through a variety of mechanisms as are known in the art.